

Mental Health Commission

State law requires that each county have a Mental Health Board or Commission. Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for three-year terms. Those terms may be extended. Commissioners advise the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Mental Health on various aspects of local mental health programs.

- The role of the commission is established in the Welfare and Institutions Code, under 5604.2.
- Review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, and special programs.
- Review any county agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650 W.I.C.
- Advise the Board of Supervisors and the local mental health director regarding any aspects of the local mental health programs.
- Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the county's mental health system.
- Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the local director of mental health services. The Commission shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body.
- Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the State Mental Health Planning Council.
- Assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to the county on services delivered to clients and on the local community.

The Board of Supervisors may transfer additional duties or authority to a mental health board or commission.

Membership

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission consists of sixteen members. By law, one member of the Commission must be a member of the Board of Supervisors. Section 5604 W.I.C. sets very specific membership requirements. Fifty percent of the Commission membership shall be consumers or the parents, spouse, sibling, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services. Consumers constitute at least 20% of the total membership. Families of consumers constitute at least 20% of the membership.

The law also establishes special requirements on ethnic diversity and conflict of interest. Commission membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county and the demographics of the county as a whole, to the extent feasible.

The special requirement in relation to conflict of interest is that "No member of the Commission or his or her spouse shall be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Department of Mental Health, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of a Bronzen-McCorquodale contract agency."

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Mental Health Commission, contact your Board of Supervisors representative.

First District

Hilda L. Solis (213) 974-4111

Second District

Mark Ridley-Thomas (213) 974-2222

Third District

Sheila Kuehl (213) 974-3333

Fourth District

Janice Hahn (213) 974-4444

Fifth District

Kathryn Barger (213) 974-5555

Annual Events

- 17th Profiles of Hope Awards-October 2017
- May & October Mental Health Awareness
- Stepping In DMH/Law Enforcement ~ March 2017
- Annual Housing Conference
- CALBHB/C (January/March/June/October)
- 2017 Employment Conference – April 2017
- December Town Hall Meeting in Service Area

Public Meeting Information

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, January through October, and the third Thursday in November and December. Meetings are held from 11:00 AM to 1:30 P.M. Most meetings are held in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. For Commission minutes or other information, please call the Commission at (213) 738-4772. The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month. The chairperson may change the date and time of the Executive Committee.

2017 Meeting Dates

MHC/SAAC Co-Chairs	Executive Committee	Full Commission
January 10	January 12	January 26
February 14	February 9	February 23
March 14	March 9	March 23
April 11	April 13	April 27
May 9	May 11	May 25
June 13	June 8	June 22
July 11	July 13	July 27
August 8	August 10	*August (Dark)
September 12	September 14	September 28
October 10	October 12	October 26
November 14	November 2	November 16
December 12	December 7	December 14

*The full Commission does not meet in August unless there is an emergency.

Commissioners

Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW
Multicultural/Cultural Competency

Herman L. DeBose, PhD
Public Interest

Jo Helen Graham, MA
Public Interest

Judy A. Cooperberg, MS, CPRP
Public Interest - Antelope Valley Resources

Victoria A. Sofro
Education and Employment

Howard L. Askins, MD, JD
Managed Care Liaison & Clinical Policy

Arnold L. Gilberg, MD, PhD
Public Health

Lawrence J. Lue
Underserved and Represented Ethnic Populations

Etelvina De La Torre, MSPA
Family Advocate - Children

Sharon Lyle
Cultural Competency, Integration & Govt Affairs

Cynthia Sanchez
Commissioner

Merilla McCurry Scott, PhD
Commissioner

Caroline Kelly, JD
Commissioner

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR REPRESENTATIVE
Fred Leaf, Health Deputy, 5th District

Board of Supervisor Designation

COMMISSIONERS BY SUPERVISORY DISTRICT

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

Howard L. Askins, MD, JD
Lawrence J. Lue
Cynthia Sanchez

Herman L. DeBose, PhD
Jo Helen Graham, MA
Vacant

Arnold L. Gilberg, MD, PhD
Merilla McCurry-Scott, PhD
Caroline Kelly, JD

Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW
Sharon Lyle
Etelvina De La Torre, MSPA

Victoria A. Sofro
Judy A. Cooperberg, MS, CPRP
Vacant

The Mental Health Commission is committed to
supporting the Department of Mental Health vision:

**"Partnering with clients, families and communities to
create "wellness, resilience, recovery"**

Rev. 12/14/2016 ch/forms/mhcbrochure

Los Angeles County



Mental Health

Commission

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Caroline Kelly, JD
Chairperson

Lawrence J. Lue
Vice Chair

Etelvina De La Torre, MSPA
Secretary

Terry G. Lewis, MS, PPS
Executive Director

Established October 7, 1957

Webpage ~ www.dmh.lacounty.info/mhc/